NORTHWEST WASHINGTON SYNOD
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"Soundings"

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The Resurrection of Our LORD

People in many parts of the world have observed an Easter event of sorts long before the Christian era. In Eastern countries as well as in Europe, people have celebrated the return of new plant life and growth in the spring season of the year. Even today, there is a lift that comes to the spirit with the signs of spring all around us.

Before the time of Christ, philosphers spoke and wrote about some kind of immortality. Our Christian Easter, or more correctly our Christian celebration of the Resurrection, is much more than a celebration of spring. It is much more than an abstract philosophy or speculation about some kind of life after death. Our Christian Festival of the Resurrection is built around the person of Jesus Christ, his death and resurrection.

We believe that because of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, there is now new life and meaning to life here and now for us as children of God. This assurance and faith inspires us to emphasize Christ's redeeming death on the cross. It moves us to celebrate Easter in a spirit of joy and hopefulness as we live today with a new spirit.

May the spirit of new life fill your consciousness in the coming days of Holy Week. May this consciousness bring to you renewed meaning in your daily living.

Sincerely in Christ,

Lowell E. Knutson

STEWARDSHIP

Continuing with our "taking another look" at the COVENANT we made with each other at the 1988 Synod assembly, we would like to focus on the next two promises:

<u>We will strive to meet our commitment to the Synod in full.</u> I would have a difficult time if my employer decided some pay period to hold back my paycheck for a few weeks, or cut back on the amount, or just skip this month. My family would suffer, my debtors would be at my doorstep, and our lifestyle would make a drastic change. When a congregation does this for undesignated benevolence, the same thing happens to those who depend upon benevolence dollars for their work. It all comes down to priorities--a decision that the church council needs to make.

Stewardship is for everyone!

<u>We will seek to grow in this percentage annually, using a 1% increase per year as a guideline.</u> I believe very strongly in "modeling". If we are asking our members to grow in their giving--usually by a percentage of their income--then we as congregations need to set that model by our own growth. If we are currently giving 12% of congregational income to undesignated benevolence, then next year we will challenge ourselves to grow to 13%, then 14%, and so on. When congregational visitors come to meet with your church council this fall, consider stating that this is your kind of growth. (written by Rev. Bob Armstrong, Region I Office.)

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

PREPARE/ENRICH TRAINING

LSSW Northwest Area Office announces a workshop for clergy and counselors to assess attitudes in significant areas of premarital, personal, and relationship evaluation. ENRICH is for use in both marriage counseling and enrichment. Register by March 27 for this workshop on April 11, 8:30 am-4 pm, lunch provided. $95.00 registration includes manual and materials. Contact Fran Davis, Life Enrichment Coordinator, 365-2700.

HOLDEN RETREATS

Holden Village is offering a retreat for SINGLES June 3-10, concentrating on topics of theology, interpersonal issues, global concerns, and spirituality.

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS and members of other Dysfunctional Families are invited to journey from childhood pain toward a celebration of loving relationships April 21-24, led by professionals in the field. Write to Holden Village, Chelan, WA 98816.

MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

The Mental Health Task Force of the Church Council of Greater Seattle will host a conference on April 8 at First United Methodist Church, 5th & Columbia, Seattle, with the theme, "Building a Caring Community: the Church and Mental Illness." Purposes are to develop a deeper understanding of mental illness, to share information on local resources, to learn about successful church-sponsored programs, to build links between churches and mental health agencies, and to identify key legislative issues and goals. Fee is $10 before April 1, $15 after. Call 525-1213.

LSMCC WORKSHOP RE-SCHEDULED

Because of snow, the workshop, "Your Values, My Values, Whose Values" that had been scheduled for February 4 has been re-scheduled for April 15. Call 365-2700 for details.

CONGREGATIONS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Learn how to develop a workable process for advocacy action in your congregation at a workshop on May 13 (re-scheduled from April 15), 9 am-1 pm at Faith, Seattle, 8208-18th Ave NE. Cost is $12 (includes brunch and materials). Register by sending your check to Lutheran Social Ministries Coordinating Council, 19230 Forest Park Dr NE, Seattle, 98155, or call 365-2700.

SUMMER INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY

The LITE Summer Institute will be held July 10-14 at Pacific Lutheran University. Three speakers will address the conference: Rev. Jerry Schmalenberger, President of PLTS; Dr. Timothy Lull, Philadelphia, who has been writing a series of columns in THE LUTHERAN; and Dr. Gracia Grindal, LNTS in St. Paul, known on a national level for her writings and lectures. Worship will be coordinated by Dan Erlander, PLU campus pastor. Tuition $100 plus room and board.

7TH BIENNIAL THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE AT HOLDEN VILLAGE

Registration for clergy, lay professional staff and their spouses is limited to 250 for this popular event on Sept. 25-28 at a cost of $160 per person.

Three prominent speakers will be featured: Dr. Choong Chee Pang, President of Trinity Theological College in Singapore and one of the premiere theologians in Asia; Dr. Paul Hanson, Professor of Old Testament at Harvard; and Dr. Phyllis Anderson, Director for Theological Education in the Division for Ministry/ELCA, directing education in the ELCA's seminaries.

Call the LITE office at 535-7342 for more information on these events.

N E W S

DR. FREDRIK A. SCHIOTZ DIES

Dr. Fredrik A. Schiotz, 87, president emeritus of the American Lutheran Church, died on Feb. 25. Schiotz had been ALC president from the time of its formation in 1961 until his retirement in 1971. He was president of one of the ALC predecessor bodies, the Evangelical Lutheran Church, from 1954 to 1960. He also served as president of Lutheran World Federation from 1963 to 1970.

INTERESTING FACTS

The Church of Sweden lists 7.7 million members, still the largest Lutheran membership list in the world. The ELCA is second with 5.3 million. The world-wide listing shows an increase of 182,334 Lutherans. Churches of Africa showed the largest increases, up 314,000 for a total of over 4.5 million. Totals in the U.S. were up 54,000.